

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 01785 091228Z

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ACTION SS-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 /023 W

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P 091109Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3109

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1785

EYES ONLY FOR SISCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR TU

SUBJ: ESENBEL-SISCO MEETING

1. AMBASSADOR ESENBEL WILL SEEK EARLY APPOINTMENT WITH YOU AFTER RETURNING TO WASHINGTON THIS SUNDAY (MARCH 10). I HAD HIM TO LUNCH FRIDAY (MARCH 8) FOR PURPOSE OF REVIEWING RESULTS OF HIS CONSULTATIONS HERE. IN ADDITION TO DISCOURAGING REPORT RE POPPY BAN SITUATION, ESENBEL DISCUSSED E-W PROBLEM AND ALSO HAYES AND ANTAKYA THREE CASES. OUR CONVERSATION THESE MATTERS REPORTED SEPTELS.

2. AT CONCLUSION OF LUNCHEON, ESNEBEL RAISED SUBJECT PRESIDENTIAL AND SECRETARY OF STATE VISITS TO TURKEY. HE SAID HE HAD FOUND CONSIDERABLE DISMAY AT ALL SENIOR LEVELS OF GOT OVER THE FACT THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD BEEN IN THE AREA SO OFTEN LATELY AND HAD NEVER STOPPED IN TURKEY "EVEN FOR TWO HOURS AT THE AIRPORT." I SAID THAT I KNEW SECRETARY KISSINGER WOULD LIKE TO COME TO TURKEY AT SOME POINT BUT I NOTED THAT UNTIL VERY RECENTLY TURKEY HAD NOT HAD A REGULAR GOVERNMENT WITH WHICH HE COULD TALK. I THEN ADDED THAT NOW-A-DAYS IF HE CAME FOR A VISIT, THE PRESS WOULD SPEND ALL OF ITS TIME ON SPECULATIONS REGARDING US PRESSURE TACTICS ON THE POPPY BAN. I ASKED IF UNDER THESE LATTER CIRCUMSTANCE ESENBEL REALLY THOUGHT THIS WAS THE TIME FOR A KISSINGER VISIT. HE AGREED THAT DURING THIS PARTICULAR PERIOD A VISIT WOULD RAISE THE DIFFICULTIES I ALLUDED TO.

3. ESENBEL WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE HOPED VERY MUCH THAT THE
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 01785 091228Z

PRESIDENT WOULD COME TO TURKEY LATER THIS YEAR AND HE REMINDED

ME THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD TWICE IN HIS PRESENCE, AND IN THE PRESENCE OF OTHER SENIOR TURKS, INDICATED HIS DESIRE TO COME HERE. ESENBEL THEN ADDED THAT FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS, IN DISCUSSING A VISIT FROM THE PRESIDENT OR SECRETARY KISSINGER WITH THE NEW PRIME MINISTER, HAD INDICATED THEIR UNDERSTANDING THAT SUCH A VISIT WOULD LIKELY BE IN CONJUNCTION WITH A SIMILAR VISIT TO ATHENS. ESENBEL SAID "YOU SHOULD KNOW" THAT PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT HAD RESPONDED "UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES, I WOULD BE MUCH LESS INTERESTED IN SUCH A VISIT.

4. ESENBEL WILL PROBABLY RAISE THE SAME LIST OF SUBJECTS WITH YOU THAT HE DID WITH ME. THE POPPY BAN, HOWEVER, WILL BE THE SUBJECT MOST ON HIS MIND. I KNOW THAT YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE EXTENSIVE REPORTING I HAVE BEEN SENDING IN ON THIS PROBLEM, AND I CAN ONLY STRESS NOW THAT WE BADLY NEED HEAVY 7TH FLOOR WEIGHING IN BY YOU AND OTHER HIGHEST LEVEL WASHINGTON OFFICIALS WITH ESENBEL IF THE HOLDING ACTION WE NOW HAVE GOING HERE IS TO CONTINUE MUCH LONGER. WE ALSO NEED ACTION SOONEST RE MY RECOMMENDATION THAT AN OFFER OF ASSISTANCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF POPPY GROWING AREA BE ORGANIZED FROM WORLD BANK OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL GROUP. GOT WILL NOT BE PARTICULARLY HAPPY OVER THIS COUNTER MOVE, BUT EXISTENCE OF SUCH AN OFFER WILL SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE, FOR GOT, THE PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN PRECIPITOUSLY RESCINDING BAN AT THIS TIME.
MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPIUM, DRUG CONTROL, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ANKARA01785
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740355/aaaabzmb.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <29 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ESENBEL-SISCO MEETING
TAGS: PFOR, TU, (SISCO, JOSEPH J), (ESENBEL, MEHIH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005